

# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431

---



## Meeting Minutes

**December 19, 2012**

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Mike Rademacher, Rachel Buonopane, Janice Dallas, John Thompson, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire, Molly Flueckiger

Members Absent: Heidi Hample

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting began at 4:15 pm

1. **Meeting minutes from 11/14/12 reviewed and revised, revisions sent to Jack on 1/12/13**
2. **Town Meeting Warrant Articles**
  - Open to submit 12/4/12 closes 1/25/12
  - Warrant article suggestions clarified as not to be policy statements
  - To submit an article a certain number of signatures are required
  - A previous article submitted by the Commission was the clearing of ice and snow- eventually becoming a town bylaw
  - A previous article submitted by the commission was allowance for the Arlington Police to ticket and enforce handicap parking spots used illegally on private property (such as Walgreens parking lot)
  - *Jack will review other previous town warrant articles written in the past*
  - **Potential idea discussed is adherence to issuing of permits for table and chairs in front of store fronts (assuring proper egress is still available)**
3. **Annual Disabilities Job Fair (4/10/13 @ Town Hall)**
  - Greg Ames to be invited to January or February meeting- he will give us an update on the plans for the event
  - Commission will cosponsor the event
4. **Forum for individuals with psychiatric disabilities**
  - 5/9/13
  - Cosponsored- to take place at Town Hall
5. **Town Website/ Disability Commission Website**
  - Discussion regarding cleaning up the site, making it more user friendly, more informative and keeping it updated

- *Jack to speak with Joan Roman regarding the site*
- *Molly and office staffer will potentially assist with the site*
- *Board members to look into other sites in preparation of next meeting. Looking for what we like/don't like and are the sites user friendly. What is the font size is the information helpful, etc...*
- *Maureen- Watertown, Lexington*
- *Molly- Waltham*
- *John- Somerville*
- *Rachel- Cambridge*
- Potential for Facebook page to be created for the commission

#### **6. Discussion of Public Works Projects**

- not much to report this month
- Mike reminded Commission members that an email went out regarding ethics for all town staff and volunteers to read and sign off on
- *John forwarded this email to all members after the meeting- it should have been responded to Patti Brennan (email address on the email)*
- Some committees within the town continue to resist the Mass Ave Corridor Project, which was supposed to start in the spring but the start may be delayed.
- Concerns that funding offer from the state may be lost or delayed too long

#### **7. Other Business**

- Mill Street (Brigham Square) lottery, there are "affordable units" offered, there are 16 handicap accessible units offered. Income guidelines for the town of Arlington distributed to commission members. They do not currently offer Section 8 units.
- The Off-lease dog park path has been put in. it has already had problems with loose stones getting onto the path and not being able to properly clear them. John and Molly to check out the park and will give feedback to this commission and Joe Connolly.
- Parks and Rec has noted budget line item titled ADA Study- commission to follow up on what they are using that funding for.
- Discussion of raising money. 501c3 Friend of the Commission. Kerrie to find out more info regarding a fundraising group. Will look to improve outreach and get more involved in supporting disability community.
- Discussion of the Newtown Shooting. Raised concerns over our role with supporting the mental health population. Awareness and understanding how traumatic events can lead to exacerbated mental health crises. What resources can we make available?
- Question of whether the police department has continued with mental health sensitivity trainings.
- Discussion of temporary ramps to allow access to store fronts on Mass Ave with a step entry. *Kerrie to look into pricing.* Another location discussed, Robbins Farm park and the roll out ramps for the grass. Handout redistributed to the group. Discussion of where a shared ramp could be stored and who might possibly take charge of loaning in out.
- *Molly, Maureen and John to survey business that are not accessible*

- Commission to further discuss plan to educate businesses regarding meeting disability standards
- *Jack to follow up with Allen Manoian- regarding business accessibility on Mass Ave.*
- The commission will plan to speak during Town Meeting to report our activities
- Rachel reported that her daughter has received repeated parking tickets for overtime parking while her handicap placard has been displayed. *Jack to invite Officer Rateau to one of our meetings to raise awareness.*

#### **Ideas**

- Ramps
- Surveys
- Invite Allen Manoian to one of our meetings to raise awareness of Jack's role within the town.
- What are our plans for the upcoming year, who is doing what. Task forces.

**Meeting adjourned 6:15**

**Next Meeting set January 16, 2013**